

	<b>STANDARD OPERATING POLICY AND PROCEDURE</b> <b>BUILDING SAFETY DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>Number:</b>  <b>2-1</b>
<b>Subject: Bedroom Definition for Single Family Residences</b>		<b>Approval Date:</b> April 2, 2009
<b>Approval:</b> Suzanne Smith, Building Official		<b>Effective Date:</b> April 2, 2009

**1.0 PURPOSE**

The document establishes the definition of a sleeping area (bedroom)

**2.0 DISTRIBUTION**

Public, Building Safety personnel

**3.0 REVISION HISTORY**

**4.0 CODE REFERENCE**

IRC 2006, Sections R202 Definitions; R303 Light, Ventilation and Heating; R304 Minimum Room Areas; R305 Ceiling Height; R310 Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings; R313 Smoke Alarms

**5.0 POLICY**

A common issue that frequently occurs is determining if a space within a building is to be defined as a bedroom. At issue is the question whether life safety elements are missing if the space is actually used as a sleeping area (bedroom) even though the space may be labeled on a plan as an office, den, or sitting room.

If a room is identified as a bedroom it must meet all the requirements of the above code references. If a room is labeled other than a bedroom but has the potential of being able to be used as a bedroom, it shall be reviewed as such and the designer shall address all code issues. If the use of the room is still in question, all life safety requirements for a bedroom shall be met. The final determination shall be made by the Building Official.